Fall 2021 Retreat
Tuesday, August 17, 9 am - 4 pm PST
Online at https://usc.zoom.us/j/91242983179?pwd=czRMOUlwUzMzd1N1VV5oMkVC5Fpkdz09
Meeting ID: 912 4298 3179
Passcode: 836002

Retreat Description

Following an unprecedented school year and in response to issues raised by faculty over the past few years, the Fall Retreat will address two critical and often interconnected topics: faculty well-being and shared governance at the school level.

In the morning session, attendees will be invited to dive into some of the findings from a large survey conducted by last year’s Faculty Environment and Employment Committee (FEEC), which sought to better understand how remote work, caregiving responsibilities, social and political changes and conflict were impacting our faculty both personally and professionally. We have invited panelists to focus on issues of burnout and stress, and ways we can address the systemic causes of these problems, as we prepare for what is sure to be another complex year for faculty, staff, and students.

The afternoon session will look at findings from a second survey from last year, this one of Faculty Council chairs, as a jumping off point for a discussion about school-level shared governance. While the survey found some common experiences and concerns for those leading Faculty Councils, it also revealed a good deal of variance in how Faculty Councils work with Deans, engage with their constituents, and interact with the Academic Senate. Attendees will hear from some of last year’s Faculty Council chairs about their experiences and participate in a conversation about how the Senate can support Faculty Councils in their efforts to have a more prominent role in developing and revising the school-level policies that affect our work and well-being on a daily basis.

Schedule Overview

9:00-9:20 Welcome (Academic Senate President Tracy Tambascia)
9:20-9:45 Opening comments (President Carol Folt)
9:45-9:50 Session I: Faculty well-being at USC: Systemic issues & what to anticipate for Fall 2021
9:50-10:05  Observations from Faculty Environment & Employment (FEEC) Committee report
10:05-10:30  Panelists discuss ways to create healthier environments, increase well-being and address systemic causes of burnout and stress: USC Campus Wellbeing & Education, Keck Office of Leadership and Wellness
10:30-10:45  Break
10:45-11:30  Small group discussion
11:30-12:00  Report back
12:00-1:00  Lunch
1:00-1:20  Afternoon remarks (Provost Chip Zukoski)
1:20-1:35  Session II: Strengthening shared governance through Faculty Councils
1:35-1:50  Observations on shared governance at USC (ImmediatePast President Paul Adler)
1:50-2:20  Panelists: Exemplars of effective approaches to shared governance and Faculty Councils
2:20-2:35  Break
2:35-3:20  Small group discussion
3:20-3:50  Report back
3:50-4:00  Closing comments